

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 23, 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to you to ensure that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and specifically, a national World Trade Center Worker and Volunteer Medical Monitoring Program coordinated by Mt. Sinai Hospital's Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, has the necessary resources to provide for the medical care of workers and volunteers who were exposed to environmental contaminants in the wake of the towers' collapse after the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

As you know, the conference report on the emergency supplemental included \$90 million as a contingent emergency appropriation for the program at Mt. Sinai Hospital to monitor the health of the workers at Ground Zero through medical screening examinations, and to provide any necessary short- and long-term medical follow-up. This project has the support of the entire New York Delegation.

We believe that the thousands of workers and volunteers who responded to the attack deserve to know if they have been exposed to dangerous chemicals and toxins, including asbestos and fiberglass, and if there are any short- and long-term effects from that exposure. The growing evidence of a high prevalence of respiratory complaints among New York City firefighters, police officers, construction workers, and others who worked at the site clearly demonstrates the need for screenings and medical follow-up. In short, early diagnosis and appropriate short- and long-term follow up examinations conducted with the needed expertise will save lives.

The need for systematic short- and long-term monitoring is imperative due to the prolonged health risks and problems that were experienced by those who suffered from Gulf War Syndrome and who were exposed to Agent Orange. The long-term well-being of the men and women who risked their lives at Ground Zero is at stake, and they deserve this medical care.

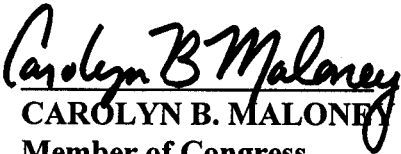
The World Trade Center Worker and Volunteer Medical Monitoring Program would provide initial medical examinations and short- and long-term medical follow-up for those individuals at risk for WTC-related illness. The medical screening and monitoring program would be conducted in coordination with the CDC and the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), the State and City of New York, and affected labor organizations and employers, and would focus on outreach, baseline health monitoring, and long-term health monitoring and study of individuals involved in rescue and response efforts. Services would be provided nationally through a consortium of occupational medicine providers working with Mt. Sinai. This is a long-term project that will yield valuable information regarding exposure to


these elements, and that will guide treatment approaches if there are long-term health effects.

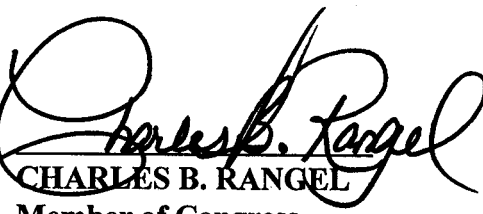
We ask you to support the funding of \$90 million for CDC/NIOSH in partnership with the Mount Sinai Center program to administer these critical services. We also request a meeting with you because of the importance we place on moving forward with the program as soon as possible. Heroic men and women who risked their lives to save others deserve our assistance.


Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


JACK QUINN
Member of Congress

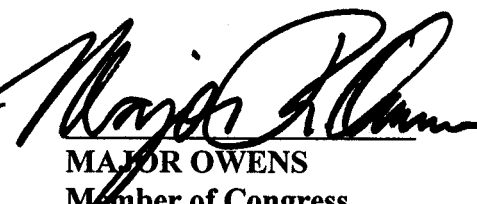

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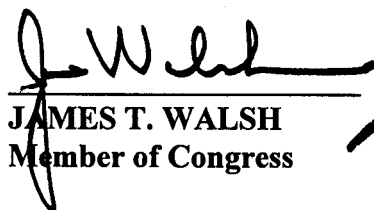

JOSÉ SERRANO
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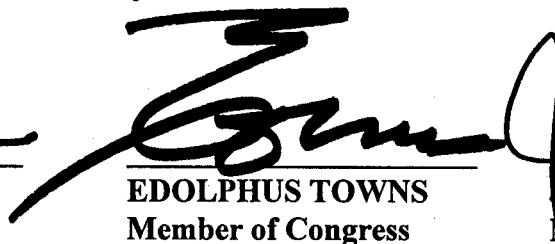

JERROLD NADLER
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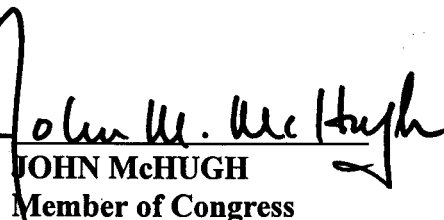

MAURICE HINCHEY
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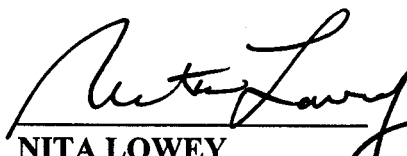

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JAMES T. WALSH
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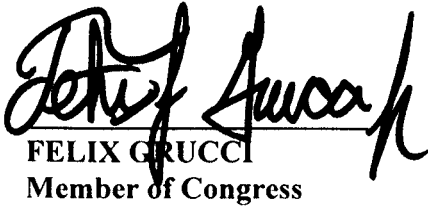

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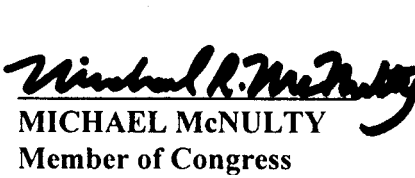

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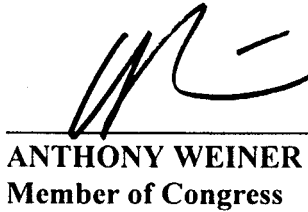

NITA LOWEY
Member of Congress

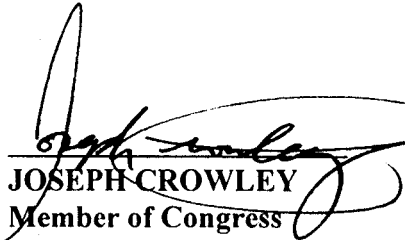

VITO ROSSELLA
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FELIX GRUCCI
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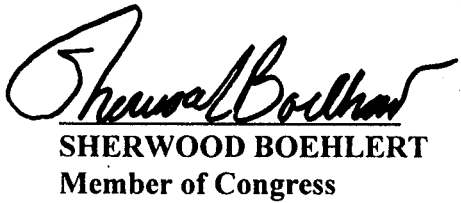

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cc:

New York Governor Pataki
New York City Mayor Bloomberg
Senator Hillary Clinton
Senator Charles Schumer
White House Budget Director Mitchell M. Daniels
FEMA Director Joseph Allbaugh
NY State AFL-CIO Denis Hughes